

The History of a People is Typified in What They do for Posterity

**Judged by This Standard Newberry
Has Made Good Record in History**

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tributed Liberally to Building up of State by
Furnishing Men in All Lines of Endeavor
Who Have Lived for Others. Has Always
Held to High Ideal of Living and of Life.**

When one writes the story of a people, he seeks first to set forth the deeds that they have done for posterity, the extent of the sacrifice of personal interests for the public welfare, the things that have made the community and the state better, and when he has told those things of any people their history is closed. It is never the man who lives for himself or his own narrow circle of life that makes history, or that the rest of the world is interested in, but the man who has done for humanity and the cause of civilization.

Judged by this standard, Newberry is entitled to a fair share of notice in the history of South Carolina. For

generations this city and the country around it have contributed to the building up of the state, have furnished men who lived for others, whose strength of brain and brawn have gone into making South Carolina the state that we love and of which all South Carolinians are proud and all others envious.

It has been a conservative people that lived here, and with conservatism there has been a high ideal of living and of life, a standard of manhood that succeeding generations have been required to measure up to. It has also been an enterprising people that made up this section of the state. They have blazed new trails in community life and progress, and they have shouldered what burdens came to their lot in the path of life. Newberry has not lacked for men to make history nor men to write the history that others made. In both fields of activity this county has been particularly prominent.

The town of Newberry is situated nearly midway between the capital of the state and the greater market towns of the Piedmont. Where the town and county got their name is a matter of speculation and there are various suggestions, but nothing certainly known, probably the most likely report is that it received its name from one of the captains in Sumter's gallant troop that fought over this territory, and in recognition of his sacrifices for the state the new district was named.

The first settlements made in this territory were on Duncan's creek, as picturesque and attractive part of the country as home seekers would care to find. This was in 1752. The district was laid out in 1783, when Laurens, Edgefield, Abbeville, Union and Spartanburg were formed of that great section of the interior which was vexed

because of the lack of recognition that its people had in the affairs of the state and the legislature began to realize that South Carolina was growing rapidly up in the hills, far away from the coast and the then centers of political and social influence. The original districts of Camden, Ninety Six and Orangeburg were cut into smaller districts for the management of their affairs; 368,640 acres were assigned to Newberry, or "Newbury," as the name was then spelled in the act. The first district court was held at the home of the veteran Col. Rutherford, who seemed to have had no little part in the organization of the new district. The location of the county seat was a question over which people disagreed then, just as they do now. It is strange how very like the people of today those old fellows were, and how like those men of old we are when the problem is the same. The solution or the method of solution alone has changed in all these changing years, the problems are all the same, and they are generally answered in the same terms.

This court was held in September 5,

1875. The location of the court house was said to have been settled by the authorities determining to draw a verse line from each corner of the county to its diagonal corner, and locate the court house where the lines crossed each other, but they intersected in the midst of a great mill pond and it was too much trouble to drain it, so that instead of putting the new town in the middle of Duren's pond they determined to move up to Coats' store, which was a good place to rest, and as good as any other for the court house. Besides that, a tract of land was granted by John Jones, whose family seems to have been lost altogether, and John Coats, who had the store that attracted the commissioners, gave two acres for the court house, and the first public buildings were erected thereon.

Newberry district was settled largely by the German and Irish, and there was plenty of territory for each, so that history does not note that they had any clashes to amount to anything. Emigrants from Virginia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania played a very conspicuous part in the early settlements in the district. They were a hardy, independent people who wanted nothing so much as elbow room. Among the early settlers were many names prominent in the creation of the commonwealth and the establishment

of the government, and all of the activities of the life of that day and time. In all of the vicissitudes of the young state the people of this district were their part nobly and well. When statesmen struggled with grave problems and situations fraught with danger, Newberry's sons aided with wise and conservative counsel, with the honor of the state ever foremost in their thoughts. In the stress of war and the dark period of reconstruction no section of the state did more than Newberry to save the civilization of the south, and her people paid the penalties extracted of them with fortitude, and ever with hope of better things. The famous Ku Klux Klan which did so much to save the civilization of the white man and free the state from the robber rule of the adventurer and the newly freed negro, flourished in Newberry and its influence was felt far and wide. It cost Newberry some of her brightest and best sons, but it saved the homes and established the future of the people. Not a few of the most influential and most worthy of the men of this district were obliged to leave their homes and families to escape persecution from the dominant element. Some have returned since the clouds passed away, but others have been permanently lost to the com-

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